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THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

OMAHA, TUESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 28, 1915—TWELVE PAGES.

On Trains, at Hotel News Stand, etc., 2c

SINGLE COPY TWO CENTS.

THE WEATHER.
Showers

OIL TANK BLAST FIRES ALL CITY AND FIFTY DIE

Car of Gasoline at Ardmore, Okl., Explodes and Resulting Blaze Kills and Injures Scores on Scores.

DAMAGE IS HALF A MILLION

Flames Reported to Be Under Control at Six O'clock After Desperate Fight.

TWO DEPOTS ARE DEMOLISHED

BULLETIN.
ARDMORE, Okl., Sept. 27.—At least twenty persons were killed and it is estimated 200 others were injured dangerously here this afternoon when a 250-barrel tank car of gasoline exploded. The forces of the explosion shook down many buildings and threw burning oil in every direction, causing scores of fires in every part of the city. At 8 o'clock the fires were under control and the city was under martial law.

ARDMORE, Okl., Sept. 27 (By Telephone to Muskogee).—Fifty people are believed to be dead and at least 200 are injured and property worth at least \$500,000 was destroyed by fire here this afternoon when a 3,000-barrel tank car exploded.

At 6:30 o'clock tonight the fires had been extinguished. Fifteen bodies had been recovered at 6 o'clock tonight. Two of them were taken from the Santa Fe freight depot, near which the explosion occurred, and five from nearby cafes. The force of the explosion threw burning oil over the city and more than thirty fires were burning at one time. A dense smoke pall settled over the city, adding to the confusion. Martial law was declared tonight to prevent looting.

Town in Flames.
KANSAS CITY, Mo., Sept. 27.—Two score of persons are reported to have been killed and a number estimated at from fifty to 100 injured as a result of the explosion of a 3,000-barrel car of gasoline at Ardmore, Okl., late today. Communication with the town, which is reported in flames, has been cut off. The report claiming the heaviest casualties, twenty-five killed and 10 injured, came from Oklahoma City.

Caused by Explosion.
DALLAS, Tex., Sept. 27.—Ten blocks of business buildings are burning at Ardmore, Okl., according to reports received here late today. The fire is said to have been started by a gas explosion. All wire communication with Ardmore is reported out of commission from points south of Ardmore.

Last reports from Ardmore said a big natural gas storage tank had exploded, destroying the greater part of the town and completely wrecking the passenger station, where the telegraph lines are located. The telegraph operator, who furnished the information, according to a local telegraph company, walked three miles south of Ardmore, where he tapped a wire and notified Dallas headquarters. The operator said the town was darkened by smoke and he did not know the extent of the damage.

The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe passenger station at Ardmore was destroyed by the explosion, according to a report here over railroad wires. It was stated every person in the station was killed.

Car of Oil Explodes.
FORT WORTH, Tex., Sept. 27.—A long distance telephone message from Ardmore to the Star Telegram at 3:30 o'clock says the known dead in Ardmore is four. One hundred were hurt. Several big buildings are burning. A car of gasoline on the Santa Fe tracks exploded, causing the damage.

Many of Dead Women.
TULSA, Okl., Sept. 27.—A message filed at Ardmore at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon (Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

The Weather

Forecast till 7 p. m. Tuesday:
For Omaha, Council Bluffs and vicinity:
Fair; not much change in temperature.

Temperature at Omaha Yesterday.	
Hour.	Temp.
6 a. m.	52
7 a. m.	52
8 a. m.	52
9 a. m.	53
10 a. m.	53
11 a. m.	53
12 m.	55
1 p. m.	55
2 p. m.	55
3 p. m.	55
4 p. m.	55
5 p. m.	55
6 p. m.	55
7 p. m.	55

Comparative Local Record.	
1902-1915.	1915.
Highest yesterday	55
Lowest yesterday	48
Mean temperature	52
Precipitation	.01
Temperature departure from the normal:	
Normal temperature	62
Excess for the day	13
Total deficiency since March 1	46
Normal precipitation	49.16
Deficiency for period	48.16
Total rainfall since March 1	24.34
Deficiency since March 1	24.82
Deficiency for period	24.82
Deficiency for year, 1915, to Sept. 27	67

Reports from Stations at 7 P. M.

Station and State	Temp.	High.	Low.
Omaha, Neb.	55	55	48
Chicago, Ill.	55	55	48
St. Paul, Minn.	55	55	48
Des Moines, Ia.	55	55	48
Sioux Falls, S. D.	55	55	48
Lincoln, Neb.	55	55	48
Omaha, Neb.	55	55	48
Omaha, Neb.	55	55	48
Omaha, Neb.	55	55	48
Omaha, Neb.	55	55	48

L. A. WELSH, Local Forecaster.

GERMAN ENGINEERS ERECTING A TEMPORARY BRIDGE—This work, so speedy and so effective, is what made the German advance into Russia possible. Photo shows building of bridge over the Bug river.



MINISTERS FINISH THEIR ELECTION

Rev. Titus Lowe and U. G. Brown Are Omaha Men Selected for the Honor.

CHURCH IS MORE PROSPEROUS

After taking eight ballots, the Nebraska Methodist conference finally succeeded in completing the election of nine ministerial delegates to the next general conference of the church, as follows:
Rev. I. B. Schreckengast, vice chancellor, Nebraska Wesleyan university, University Place.
Rev. E. E. Hoshorn, superintendent, Norfolk district.
Rev. J. W. Embree, superintendent, Tecumseh district.
Rev. U. G. Brown, superintendent, Omaha district.
Rev. Titus Lowe, pastor First Church, Omaha.
Rev. E. W. Marsh, superintendent Hastings district.
Rev. E. M. Furman, pastor Tecumseh and secretary of the conference.
Rev. R. H. Thompson, pastor, Kearney.
Rev. H. H. Millard, pastor, Norfolk.
As reserve or substitute delegates, to serve in case any of the regular delegates are unable to do so, the conference elected Rev. A. A. Randall of Broken Bow and Rev. J. R. Gettys of University Place.

Choice Is Popular.
The choice of Rev. Dr. Lowe of Omaha and Rev. Dr. Brown, superintendent of the Omaha district, is popular with the ministers and regarded as special honors in recognition of merit, as both men have been in the Nebraska conference only a comparatively short time. The election of Rev. Dr. Furman was also in special recognition of his work as secretary of the conference.

According to a preliminary report by Rev. H. G. Langley of Laurel, treasurer of the conference, Nebraska Methodists have been even more liberal than had been supposed, in giving to the various national benevolent funds of the church. He said that a total of \$8,756 had been contributed during the last year by the churches of the Nebraska conference for (Continued on Page Twelve, Column One)

John W. Bookwalter, Owner of Nebraska Lands, Dies in Italy

SPRINGFIELD, O., Sept. 27.—A cablegram was received here today announcing the death in San Remo, Italy, of John W. Bookwalter, 70 years old, of this city, widely known capitalist, philanthropist and for many years prominent in Ohio politics.

In addition to owning 90,000 acres of land in Nebraska, Mr. Bookwalter had extensive business and manufacturing interests in this state. A quarter of a century ago he was the democratic candidate for governor of Ohio and at one time was a candidate for United States senator, but was defeated. BEATRICE, Neb., Sept. 27.—(Special Telegram.)—A cablegram was received here today from Italy announcing the death of Colonel J. W. Bookwalter of Springfield, O., owner of thousands of acres of land in Nebraska, and other counties in Nebraska. He was an uncle of Colonel E. J. Shinn, of this city, who went to Italy some weeks ago, to attend the bedside of Mr. Bookwalter, who had been in that country for some time, on account of his health. He was about 75 years of age and unmarried. Mr. Bookwalter was author of "If Not Silver What," in advocacy of bimetallism. The remains will be taken to Springfield, O., for interment.

BRITAIN INTERNS MORE TEUTONS AND TURKS

LONDON, Sept. 27.—Every male German, Turk and Austrian of military age in London, who has not been granted exemption, will be required today to surrender to the police. Austrians under 16 years of age and Germans under 16 years will be interned.

ENCAMPMENT OF VETERANS BEGINS

Commander-in-Chief Palmer Opens Headquarters of Reunion in Old Census Building.

DAY GIVEN TO RECEPTIONS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—The forty-ninth annual reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic began here today with thousands of veterans participating. The celebration will continue for a week and will include a procession of veterans from the capitol to the White House in commemoration of the grand review which marked the close of the civil war. Plans had been perfected for entertaining 100,000 visitors.

Public Buildings Draped.
All public buildings, including the White House and the capitol and business houses along Pennsylvania avenue, where the grand review is to take place, are draped in the national colors. The day's ceremonies began with the formal opening by Commander-in-Chief Palmer of Camp Emory, official headquarters of the reunion, established in the old census building near the capitol, and the welcoming by the commander and his staff of Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles, retired, who is to be the grand marshal of the parade on Wednesday. This was the only formal ceremony held, the day being devoted largely to the informal reception of incoming delegations. Thirty thousand veterans are expected to participate in the grand review on Wednesday. President Wilson will review the procession.

Wednesday Will Be Holiday.
It was a clear, crisp day for the veterans, thousands of whom gathered at headquarters for the dedication of the Camp Emory building. Addresses were made by Theodore W. Noyes, president of the Washington Old Soldiers association, and others. Most of the day was given over to registration of the veterans. On the streets were seen many former Confederate army officers, especially invited to attend the reunion. President Wilson issued an executive order for a holiday in all government departments Wednesday, when he will review the procession.

Italians Accused of Shelling Red Cross Hospital at Gorizia

BERLIN, Sept. 27.—(By Wire.)—The official statement issued yesterday at Vienna contains the following:
"The activity of the Italians yesterday was confined to heavy shelling of the Red Cross hospital at Gorizia, which is marked conspicuously by the Red Cross flag. Italian shells struck the hospital five times. One shell exploded in the operating room. Fifty-three other shells fell in the immediate neighborhood of the hospital."
This action was contrary to international law. It served no military purpose, as there were no troops in the immediate vicinity.

The Austrian official statement yesterday as received by way of London did not contain the foregoing, which apparently was stricken out by the British censor.

Editor Shot by Burglars is Dead

WALSBURG, Colo., Sept. 27.—Robert Mitchell, democratic county chairman and publisher of the independent, a weekly newspaper, died today from wounds received last night. The shooting occurred when Mitchell and his wife returned home and surprised men who were ransacking the house. Bloodhounds traced Mitchell's assailants to the abandoned workings of the Walsburg mine. A posse of fifty men, under Sheriff Jefferson Parr, are searching the mine. Mitchell died on the train on which he was being taken to a Pueblo hospital.

KAISER WILL MOVE HIS HEADQUARTERS OVER ON THIS SIDE

Emperor William to Pitch His Camp in Luxembourg in October, According to Dispatch to London.

PARIS AND BERLIN DISAGREE

French Report Says German Counter Rush Stopped by Allied Troops.

GERMANS TELL OF SUCCESSES

BULLETIN.
PARIS, Sept. 27.—The French official statement made public tonight says that the situation to the north of Arras remains unmodified and that the fighting in the Champagne continues. The statement adds that the Germans today began another offensive movement in the Argonne, but that it was completely checked and that the German losses were heavy.

BULLETIN.
BERLIN, Sept. 27.—(By Wire.)—An official statement enumerates the capture of more than 5,000 French and British prisoners and a number of machine guns in the land fighting at various points along the western front.

LONDON, Sept. 27.—Emperor William intends to remove his headquarters to Luxembourg in October. It is declared in a dispatch from Amsterdam to the Exchange Telegraph company. Instructions already have been issued regarding the transfer, according to advices from Berlin, the dispatch adds.

BERLIN, Sept. 27.—(Via London.)—The German war office announced today that the new offensive movement in the neighborhood of Lille, northern France, had been brought to a standstill by fierce German counter attacks. The British attack in other sectors also is said to have broken down with very heavy losses to the attacking forces. The war office states that the French offensive has made no further progress between Rheims and the Argonne.

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The number of prisoners has been increased to twenty-five officers and 2,900 men. The booty in machine guns has been increased to fourteen.
"The French offensive between Rheims and the Argonne has made no further progress. All attacks of the enemy, which were very fierce, especially on the Somme-Py road, well north of Beaumont, and at Farnham, and east of the Aisne, failed with very heavy losses to the enemy. The number of prisoners taken there has been increased to more than forty officers and 2,900 men."

Turks Report Success.
CONSTANTINOPLE, Sept. 27.—(Via Berlin, by Wireless to Tuckerton, N. J.)—Part of the positions on the Turkish left wing at Anafarta, which had been occupied by the entente allies in the Gallipoli peninsula operations, has been taken by the Turks, according to an official statement issued at Turkish army headquarters.

The Day's War News

TERRIBLE STRUGGLE on the battle front in the west inaugurated Saturday with the new offensive movement by the entente allies has resulted in further successes for their arms.

SHELL FIRE from a German submarine sank the British steamer Natal Transport, of 2,655 tons, south of Crete, in the Mediterranean. Its crew was landed.

ROMANIA, IN A NOTE couched in friendly terms, has asked the Sofia government for an explanation of Bulgaria's military preparations, according to information reaching Italy.

RUSSIANS SEEM TO BE holding their own at most points and doing even better in some sectors. Their resistance around Bzinsk is apparently stronger, while they are desperately battling with the Germans near Velleika and Smorgon. Petrograd reports new successes east of Novorodok and in the sector of Plesk, with the taking of several hundred prisoners and some machine guns.

The Bee's Big Ak-Sar-Ben Special

Next Sunday
Place Your Order Now

U. S. Takes Steps to Keep War Munitions from Mexican Bandits

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 27.—Orders have been issued to all American officials on the Mexican border to seize all shipments of ammunition when the destination is not definitely known. No embargo is being laid on commercial shipments of war munitions to the principal factions, but it is the purpose of the government to prevent war supplies from reaching bandit bands and raiders operating independently. One large shipment is being held up at Laredo until its ownership can be determined.

Official confirmation of the story of how Yaqui Indians derailed a train between Hermosillo and Guaymas and burned sixty persons in a car of hay, was received today by the State department. No foreigners were reported killed. There now is a telegraphic communication between Guaymas and the Yaqui valley.

Carrazas Threatens Trainmen.
"The department has been informed," said an announcement today, "that Carrazas authorities have taken the position that all trains, whether their own, or the enemies' are military trains and that to avoid international difficulties, foreigners should not engage in railway service, which is really a form of military service. It is stated that for some cause deemed sufficient, an entire train crew might be imperilled or even executed under martial law."

Reports from west coast districts show conditions more or less disturbed, but nothing acute.

Villa agents have announced receipt of despatches showing evacuation of Naco by Carranza forces and the prospective evacuation of Agua Prieta before the Villa advance along the border. They charged that Carranza troops before leaving Cananea on September 23, killed 100 civilians. Villa forces now claim complete control of the state of Sonora. Their main body is said still to be in Durango. Tucson, Chihuahua and other towns in the vicinity.

Missing Trooper Reported Captured.
BROWNVILLE, Tex., Sept. 27.—Mexicans living near the Progresso crossing have reported that Private Richard J. Johnson of the Twelfth cavalry, who has been missing since last Friday's fight, was seen a prisoner on the Mexican side of the river shortly after the fight. Unless corroborative evidence is developed, it was stated, no serious reliance can be placed on this report.

Two Mexican bandits wounded by J. B. McAllen Friday when his ranch was attacked, died today. Two others were killed during the fight. Another bandit from this party was captured today by deputy sheriffs.

A list found on the leader of the bandits, who was the first man killed in the McAllen fight, indicates that there were ten others in the band, in addition to five accounted for as dead or captured. Peace officers have the names of these ten and were searching for them today.

ROUMANIA ASKS SOFIA TO EXPLAIN

Note Couched in Friendly Terms is Sent to Bulgaria Asking About Mobilization of Army.

GREECE CONTINUES TO PREPARE

BULLETIN.
BUCHAREST, Roumania, Sept. 27.—(Via London.)—5:06 p. m.)—The Roumanian cabinet at a meeting today in which the mobilization of Bulgaria and Greece was discussed, decided that Roumania should continue the course it has been following.

These new developments, it was determined, were not of a nature to cause Roumania to modify in any way the line of conduct it has pursued up to the present. Consequently Roumanian troops will remain concentrated along the national frontier.

BULLETIN.
BERLIN, Sept. 27.—(By Wire.)—Saville.—A dispatch from Sofia, given out here today by the Overseas News Agency, says it is rumored that Bulgaria has sent an ultimatum to Serbia, and that the diplomatic representatives of the entente powers at Bulgaria are preparing to depart. The dispatch adds that this rumor has not been confirmed.

ROME, Sept. 26.—(Via Paris, Sept. 27.)—The Turin correspondent of the Idea Nazionale says he has been informed that the Roumanian government has sent to Sofia a note couched in friendly language asking an explanation of Bulgaria's military preparations.

Greece Requisitioned Transports.
PIRAEUS, Greece, Sept. 26.—(Via Paris, Sept. 27.)—The Greek government today requisitioned twenty merchant vessels for the transportation of troops. Among the vessels requisitioned are the transatlantic liners Themistocles, King Constantine and Patria.

PARIS, Sept. 27.—Mobilization of twenty classes of Greek troops will call to the colors 40,000 men. This is the official figure given by the Greek war ministry yesterday as the number of the Athens correspondent of the Havas News Agency.

The war ministry states that there is an abundance of equipment and munitions for these men.

The correspondent adds that it is unknown whether King Constantine will take active command of his forces. If he does not do so his brother, Prince Nicholas, will be placed in command. Turkey and Bulgaria sign Treaty.

SOFIA, Sept. 26.—(Via London, 7:37 p. m.)—The protocol providing for the handing over of territory ceded by Turkey to Bulgaria in virtue of the Turko-Bulgarian agreement, was signed by Turkish and Bulgarian delegates at Demotika, twenty miles south of the Turkish fortress of Adrianople yesterday, according to the semi-official Bulgarian newspaper Narodni Prava.

The agreement by which Turkey ceded to Bulgaria the Turkish portion of the Balkan railway is reported to have been reached July 22. The protocol is understood to transfer to Bulgaria all Turkish territory west of the Maritza river. The Maritza is the principal river in European Turkey and formed the boundary between Turkey and the part of Turkey (territory ceded to Bulgaria after the Balkan war). According to an official report the treaty leaves Bulgaria unpledged concerning her attitude in the war.

Grocer Murdered by Safe Cracker

OAKDALE, Cal., Sept. 27.—Shot through the head and with his head broken in, H. E. Bergman, a grocer, was found dead today beside the wrecked and looted safe in his store. He had also been stabbed. Bergman returned from a trip out of the city last night and apparently visited the store on his return and was surprised by robbers. The police believe that he was killed in trying to protect his property. He formerly lived in Sweetwater, Tex. Mrs. Bergman is now visiting relatives in Santa Fe, N. M.

ENTENTE BEGINS BIG OFFENSIVE MOVE IN FRANCE

British and French Troops Gain in Two Days Are Greater Than in the Twelve Months Preceding.

RUSSIANS WIN IN SOUTHEAST

Activity of Allies is Expected to Interfere with Proposed Campaign in Serbia.

BELGIANS TAKE PART ON YSER

BULLETIN.
LONDON, Sept. 27.—A British official communication made public tonight says:

"Northwest of Hulluch we have repulsed a number of counter attacks and inflicted heavy loss on the enemy. East of Loos our offensive is progressing."

"Our captures now amount to fifty-three officers and 2,800 men and eighteen guns and thirty-two machine guns. The enemy abandoned a considerable quantity of ammunition which has not yet been classified."

BULLETIN.
LONDON, Sept. 27.—In two days' the French and British have gained greater results than in the preceding twelve months of fighting since the battle of the Marne. With upwards of 20,000 German prisoners in their hands and something like thirty guns, without counting machine guns, and with a formidable breach in the German line, the allies apparently have their long expected offensive movement well under way. The advance has been general, and its effect is emphasized by the fact that on the eastern front a substantial gain for the Russians is recorded.

Petrograd states that the army of General Ivanoff has won a striking victory over the Germans and Austrians in the southeastern theater, where 1,000 prisoners are said to have been taken. Belgians Take Part on Yser. The Belgians also are taking a prominent part in the new offensive movement. Their official announcement reports the capture of a German post on the right bank of the Yser, with the consequent evacuation by the Germans of adjoining trenches. It is believed in London that the new move in the west will again bring the Germans face to face with the necessity of making a choice between the two fronts, as was the case earlier in the war. Military writers point out that the Russians are now holding the Austrians and Germans on a front of 700 miles, while the presence of nearly 2,000,000 strongly entrenched German troops failed to prevent an advance in France. This they say, must increase the perplexities of the German general staff and react immediately on any plans which may have been formed for new attacks in the south or southeast.

The feeling of optimism in London is enhanced by the political effect which the successes of the allies appear to have had on the Balkan states. Dispatches from Sofia indicate that Bulgarian diplomats are eager to convince the allies that mobilization of the army was not prompted by hostile motives.

Russian Position Improved.
The latest official news from Petrograd is interpreted here as showing that the Russians are distinctly in a better position. This seems to be true even in the region of Dvinsk, where Field Marshal von Hindenburg has concentrated his efforts, perhaps at the expense of the southern front. The German attack now seems to be slackening. Notwithstanding the successes of the allies, England is not blinded to the fact that it will be no light task to attempt to (Continued on Page Four, Column Two.)

Marine and Fifty Haitians Killed in Near Haut Vu Cap

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—Details of fighting between native and American forces near Cape Haitien yesterday in which one marine was killed, ten were wounded and more than fifty Haitians were killed, reached the Navy department today in messages from Rear Admiral Caperton. The marine patrols had been sent out to clear the lines of supply from Cape Haitien to the interior.

The first expedition sent out on Saturday afternoon to Haut Vu Cap and Petit Anse, close to the city and on the main line of supplies, passed native outposts, whose commanders objected to the expedition, but offered no resistance. Next day two patrols went out again and after the expedition reached Haut Vu Cap firing became general and both patrols were engaged. About fifty natives were killed. The patrols returned to Cape Haitien last night and Admiral Caperton reported that supply routes had been completely cleared of hostile forces.

A later message said Captain Underwood led an expedition of fifty mounted marines to Petit Riviere and Dalarte Bonite Sunday, and encountered 100 armed Haitians. They were driven into the hills after a vigorous skirmish in which one marine and two natives were killed and three natives were wounded. The marines are holding the two towns, where quiet has been restored.

South American Boys Come to United States Universities

NEW YORK, Sept. 27.—Students from the Central and South American republics, who ordinarily go to Europe for education, are coming to the United States this year because of the war. Parties of them are arriving here daily on steamships from the south. Thirty-five young men were in one group from Brazil, which arrived here yesterday to study at Yale, Princeton and Harvard universities. Many Mexicans and Cubans are among the students.

New courses and new instructors to deal with financial subjects and topics peculiar to Latin-America have been adopted by several eastern universities.

State W. C. T. U. Will Meet at Iowa City

IOWA CITY, Ia., Sept. 27.—(Special.)—Tuesday of this week begins the annual session of the Iowa Women's Christian Temperance union at Iowa City. Over 2,000 women will participate in the sessions of the state organization. Included on the program are Nellie Burger, president of the Women's Christian Temperance union of Missouri; Flora Dunlap, president of the Iowa Equal Suffrage association; Attorney General George Cameron; Mrs. M. E. Patterson, national Women's Christian Temperance union organizer; and Prof. George Ellingwood Joy.

THE OMAHA BEE.